



North Beach Area



Osprey



Old live oaks, Parade Ground



Fort moat , North Gate

All Photos Fort Monroe Authority, upper right by Robert Kelly

Fort Monroe Points of Interest

Building #1, Old Quarters: Here, Major General Benjamin Butler declared three men who escaped from slavery as contraband of war. Lincoln also stayed here while planning the attack on Norfolk in 1862.

Building #50: The historic engineer’s quarters.

Building 17, Lee’s Quarters: Quarters occupied by Robert E. Lee and his family while he was a young engineer helping to oversee the construction of Fortress Monroe.

Casemate #22: A fortified gun emplacement, part of the defensive system of the fort.

Casemate Museum: Owned and operated by the Fort Monroe Authority with curatorial

support provided by the Army, the museum chronicles the military history of Fort Monroe.

Parade Ground: The grassy Parade Ground, surrounded on three sides by mature live oaks including the 500 year old “Algernon Oak”, was historically used as much for recreation as military exercises and ceremonies.

Old Point Comfort Lighthouse: This 1802 lighthouse was a British observation post during the War of 1812. It is the oldest operating lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay and maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fort Monroe is one of nearly 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America’s communities, visit www.nps.gov



Planning Your Visit

A Brand New National Park

Fort Monroe is a new national park area with limited services and programs. It is a park “in progress” and in the coming years, you will see facilities and services added to the park.

The best way to explore the fortress today is by foot. Drive or bike to visit the North Beach area. As the largest stone fort ever built in the United States, you can experience the scale of the fort and understand its strategic location defending Hampton Roads Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay by walking the ramparts encircling the top of the fort. From there, look across the channel to Fort Wool to see how geographic placement was a key to the Third System fortifications coastal

defense strategy. The fort was home to thousands of military families over the years. The scenic streets and historic homes at the fort are reminders of American domestic and civic life the fort was established to defend.

Today the fort is a home and workplace just as it was during its military service. Please respect the occupants’ privacy as you enjoy touring the fort.

For a Safe Visit

Use caution when walking the rampart that circles the top of the fort. Do not venture too close to the edge of the fort walls and stay clear of the moat. Children should be closely super-

vised especially when exploring the fort’s features. Be alert for traffic, pedestrians, and cyclists on Fort Monroe’s thoroughfares.

Getting to the Park

From Richmond: I-64 East towards Norfolk/Williamsburg/Virginia Beach.

From Virginia Beach/Norfolk: I-64 West towards Richmond, VA.

Then, for both: Remain on I-64 until you reach Hampton, VA. Take Exit 268 (169 East Mallory St/ Ft. Monroe). Left at the light onto S Mallory St (0.1 mile). Right at the next light onto E Mellen St. Continue (approximately 0.6 miles) over a small bridge and causeway to the fort.

Fort wall detail Robert Kelly, Fort Monroe Authority